

## CLAIMS

1. An Application Programming Interface (API), comprising:  
a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;  
5 a browser plug-in API; and  
an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said  
browser plug-in API wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform independent  
plug-in API to said intermediary.
- 10 2. The API of claim 1 further comprising:  
a first interface in said platform independent plug-in API; and  
a second interface in said wrapper, wherein said platform independent plug-in  
API is connected to said wrapper at said first and second interfaces.
- 15 3. The API of claim 2 wherein said intermediary is a BlackConnect component.
4. The API of claim 3 wherein said BlackConnect component includes an  
XPCOM component.
- 20 5. The API of claim 1 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is written  
in a platform independent programming language.
6. The API of claim 5 wherein said platform independent programming language  
is Java.

7. The API of claim 1 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is a backward compatible API.

5 8. The API of claim 1 wherein said browser plug-in API further comprises a scriptable plug-in API wherein said scriptable plug-in API connects said browser plug-in API with said intermediary.

9. The API of claim 1 wherein said wrapper further comprises:

10 an interface connecting an input stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting an output stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

15 an interface connecting a pluglet factory interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet peer interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

20 an interface connecting a pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a second pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet stream information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet stream listener interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

5 an interface connecting a pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; and

an interface connecting a second pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary.

10 10. A method for implementing an API, comprising:  
obtaining a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;  
obtaining a browser plug-in API; and  
positioning an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API  
and said browser plug-in API wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform  
15 independent plug-in API to said intermediary.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:  
defining a first interface in said platform independent plug-in API; and  
defining a second interface in said wrapper, wherein said platform  
20 independent plug-in API is connected to said wrapper at said first and second interfaces.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said intermediary is a BlackConnect component.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said BlackConnect component includes an XPCOM component.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is  
5 written in a platform independent programming language.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said platform independent programming language is Java.

10 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is a backward compatible API.

17. The method of claim 10 wherein said browser plug-in API further comprises a scriptable plug-in API wherein said scriptable plug-in API connects said browser plug-in API  
15 with said intermediary.

18. The method of claim 10 wherein said wrapper further comprises:  
an interface connecting an input stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

20 an interface connecting an output stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet factory interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet peer interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

5 an interface connecting a pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a second pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

10 an interface connecting a pluglet stream information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet stream listener interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; and

15 an interface connecting a second pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary.

19. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein

20 configured to implement an API, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a platform-independent plug-in API including a wrapper;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a browser plug-in API; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to position an intermediary between said platform-independent plug-in API and said browser plug-in API wherein said wrapper is used to connect said platform independent plug-in API to said intermediary.

5           20.     The computer program product of claim 19 further comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a first interface in said platform independent plug-in API; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to define a second interface in said wrapper, wherein said platform independent plug-in API is connected to said wrapper at said first and second interfaces.

10           21.     The computer program product of claim 20 wherein said intermediary is a BlackConnect componenet.

15           22.     The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said BlackConnect component includes an XPCOM component.

20           23.     The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is written in a platform independent programming language.

24.     The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said platform independent programming language is Java.

25. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said platform independent plug-in API is a backward compatible API.

26. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said browser plug-in API further comprises a scriptable plug-in API wherein said scriptable plug-in API connects said browser plug-in API with said intermediary.

27. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein said wrapper further comprises:

10 an interface connecting an input stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting an output stream interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

15 an interface connecting a pluglet interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet factory interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet peer interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

20 an interface connecting a pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a second pluglet manager interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet stream information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

an interface connecting a pluglet stream listener interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary;

5 an interface connecting a pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary; and

an interface connecting a second pluglet tag information interface of said platform independent API to said intermediary.

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